

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/013887

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ A61K7/50, C11D1/10, 1/37

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ A61K7, C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI/L

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|--|
| Y | JP 10-121091 A (Ajinomoto Co., Inc.), 12 May, 1998 (12.05.98), Claims; Par. No. [0026]; table 3 & EP 826766 A2 & US 5854199 A | 1-30 |
| X | JP 4-180999 A (Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), | 11-12, 18, 21, 26-28 |
| Y | 29 June, 1992 (29.06.92), Claims; page 2, upper right column, lines 7 to 15 (Family: none) | 1-10, 13-17, 19-20, 22-25, 29-30 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
10 December, 2004 (10.12.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
28 December, 2004 (28.12.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| X | JP 2-268114 A (Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), | 11-12, 18, 21, 26-28 |
| Y | 01 November, 1990 (01.11.90), Claims; page 2, upper right column, lines 5 to 11; examples (Family: none) | 1-10, 13-17, 19-20, 22-25, 29-30 |
| X | JP 5-4952 A (Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), | 11-12, 18, 21, 26-28 |
| Y | 14 January, 1993 (14.01.93), Claims; Par. Nos. [0001], [0008], [0018] (Family: none) | 1-10, 13-17, 19-20, 22-25, 29-30 |
| X | JP 2000-191613 A (Asahi Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.), | 11-12, 18, 21, 26-28 |
| Y | 11 July, 2000 (11.07.00), Claims; Par. Nos. [0001], [0008], [0014] to [0021], [0024], [0029] & WO 2000/10546 A1 & EP 1156033 A1 & US 6569829 A & KR 2001-99971 A & CN 1332721 A | 1-10, 13-17, 19-20, 22-25, 29-30 |
| X | JP 10-337195 A (Mitsubishi Chemical Corp.), 22 December, 1998 (22.12.98), | 11-12, 18, 21, 26-28 |
| Y | Claims; Par. Nos. [0002], [0017], [0070] (Family: none) | 1-10, 13-17, 19-20, 22-25, 29-30 |
| Y | JP 8-231335 A (Kose Corp.), 10 September, 1996 (10.09.96), Claims; Par. Nos. [0005], [0008] (Family: none) | 1-30 |
| Y | JP 2001-131129 A (Asahi Kasei Corp.), 15 May, 2001 (15.05.01), Claims; Par. Nos. [0001], [0014]; examples 4, 10, 16 | 1-30 |
| Y | JP 6-116133 A (Kanebo, Ltd.), 26 April, 1994 (26.04.94), Claims; examples (Family: none) | 1-30 |
| Y | JP 63-2962 A (Kawaken Fine Chemicals Co., Ltd.), 07 January, 1988 (07.01.88), Claims; page 2, upper right column to lower left column; example 14 (Family: none) | 1-30 |
| Y | JP 5-70794 A (Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), 23 March, 1993 (23.03.93), Claims; Par. No. [0008] (Family: none) | 1-30 |

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| Y | JP 4-321656 A (Kao Corp.), 11 November, 1992 (11.11.92), Claims; Par. No. [0003] (Family: none) | 1-30 |
| A | JP 55-160096 A (Kawaken Fine Chemicals Co., Ltd.), 12 December, 1980 (12.12.80), Claims; table 1, example 5; table 2, example 11 & DE 3020649 A1 & FR 2457891 A1 & US 4273684 A | 1-30 |

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The technical feature common to claims 1-30 is to incorporate an N-acylaspartic acid (salt) into a detergent composition. However, this point is known as apparent from the fact that it is shown in document A. These claims hence have no common "special technical feature."

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 1-10, 20, 22-25, and 29-30 and the subject matter of claims 11-19 and 29-30 or of claims 21 and 26-30 do not form a single general inventive concept in the international application.

Document A: JP 5-4952 A (Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd.) 14 January, 1993 (14.01.93)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Claims 11-12 and 21 pertain to a detergent having desired properties. However, the detergents which are disclosed in the meaning of Article 5 of the PCT are limited to ones containing the ingredient (A) which has undergone a specific treatment given in the description. The claims lack support in the meaning of Article 6 of the PCT.

Therefore, a search was made for the range which is supported by and disclosed in the description, i.e., the ingredient (A) which has undergone the specific treatment and is supported by the description.